

MONROE COUNTY NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: James Smith
NEWS RELEASE: #1
DATE: April 4, 2003
TIME: 5:15 a.m.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE ACTIVATES EOC

County Executive Jack Doyle this morning advises residents to exercise extreme caution in the wake of a severe ice storm that hit Monroe County last night and continues to present difficult weather conditions this morning. As a precaution, Doyle activated Monroe County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 4:30 AM.

Freezing rain and ice have caused downed power lines and trees, power outages and extremely slippery roads and highways. Numerous roads are blocked with fallen tree limbs and downed power lines. County officials urge residents to travel with caution in affected areas and to keep children and pets away from damaged and down power lines. Area residents should also use caution around ice laden trees and power lines, due to falling limbs or the potential for downed wires.

County Police, Fire, and EMS agencies as well as the Departments of Transportation, Public Safety, 9-1-1, and Communications are staffing the EOC to conduct storm assessments and determine any further necessary actions. RG&E, the Red Cross and local business representatives are also on hand as part of this effort.

The weather situation may result in school, business and government closings and the public is asked to monitor the local media for these closings and further announcements. Unnecessary travel is discouraged.

Residents are reminded that calls to 9-1-1 should be limited to those situations requiring police, fire or emergency medical services only. Additional information on activities at the EOC and possible further community action will be made available as warranted.

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